



Education Watch

Enhancing Accountability, Local Control, & Parental Choice ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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Support Grows for Ed Tax Credit to Give Parents More Options

Support is growing for Congress to build on President Bush's *No Child Left Behind Act* this year by passing an education tax credit to further expand options for parents who want to choose the best education possible for their children. House Majority Leader Dick Armey has indicated he expects the House to vote this summer on such a proposal.

Monday's *Investor's Business Daily* urges Congress to consider enacting an education tax credit that would allow parents to give their children the ability to attend the best schools available -- an option currently denied to too many parents in America.

"While Congress is usually the best place in America to find a bad idea, Rep. Bob Schaffer [R-CO] has an idea with merit," the paper weighs in, embracing Schaffer's efforts to build congressional support for an education tax credit. Schaffer, vice-chairman of the House Education Reform Subcommittee, supports providing a credit for donations to scholarship organizations and public and private schools. Schaffer is working to finalize his proposal and expects to introduce legislation soon.

President Bush's FY 2003 budget sets aside \$3.5 billion over five years to provide an education tax credit. Meanwhile, Education Secretary Rod Paige is making final preparations for a conference June 13 & 14 to help state educators implement provisions in the *No Child Left Behind Act* that will provide new choices to parents. The NCLB law allows parents with children in failing or dangerous schools to transfer to a better-achieving public or charter school, and to use their child's share of federal Title I dollars to obtain private tutoring and other supplemental educational services.

News of the Day

Parental choice is an essential element of accountability in education.

- ❑ *The No Child Left Behind Act gives parents new tools and information about the education their children are receiving. But parents must also be able to DO something with that information when they aren't seeing results.*
- ❑ *Students in failing or dangerous schools will begin receiving new options this fall under the No Child Left Behind Act. Congress should act this year to further expand options for parents by creating an education tax credit to help more parents choose the best education possible for their children.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Secretary of Education Rod Paige will host a Supplemental Education Services Conference ("Serving all Schoolchildren and Increasing Options for Parents"), on June 13 and 14, 2002, in Washington, D.C.
- "Since the day this powerful new law was signed, I've been committed to working in partnership with state leaders to equip them with the information and resources they need to help implement the No Child Left Behind Act," Paige said recently. "This conference will provide states with the critical information they need to help implement this important provision that gives children in failing schools the extra help they need."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Less than a year after passage of the President's landmark education reforms, students are already beginning to see results. We must continue to do all we can so teachers can teach, students can learn, and parents can exercise choice." -- House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX), May 24, 2002